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Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/523,310	JAHNES ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Bernard Rojas	2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 03/28/2007.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,4 and 6-19.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 03282007
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach nor suggest, in the claimed combination, a micro-electromechanical system (MEMS) comprising: a cavity; at least one conductive path integral to a first surface bordering said cavity; a flexible membrane parallel to said first surface bordering said cavity, said flexible membrane having a plurality of conductive vias and a plurality of actuating electrodes attached thereto; and a plunger attached to said flexible membrane in a direction away from said actuating electrodes, said plunger having at least one conductive surface to make electrical contact with said at least one conductive path

Claim 15, the prior art of record does not teach nor suggest, in the claimed combination, a micro-electromechanical system (MEMS) switch comprising: (a) a substrate comprising a conductive metal inlaid path onto which a cavity is formed; (b) on said cavity, a first release layer followed by a first conductive layer and by a second conductive or dielectric layer, said two conductive layers being patterned into the form of an inverted 'T'; (c) a planarized second release layer followed by a third conductive layer; (d) on top of said third conductive layer, a dielectric layer and patterned via holes to expose a lower conductor; (e) a conductive surface filling said patterned via holes providing a finite thickness above said filled via holes, said conductive surface patterned into the shape of actuating fingers, said combination of (a) through (e) forming

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a flexible membrane; and (f) via holes perforating said flexible membrane and simultaneously providing access slots outside of said membrane, wherein air replaces said first and second release layers.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernard Rojas whose telephone number is (571) 272-1998. The examiner can normally be reached on M and W-F, 5:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



ELVIN ENAD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
16 April 2007

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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